

Message Text

SECRET

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66 60

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 MBFR-02 PM-03 L-02 SAJ-01 GAC-01

ACDA-10 OMB-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /067 W

----- 124633

R 221622 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4047

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 4256

LIMDIS

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW, NATO, PFOR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN

REF: BONN 4107

1. FRG FONOFF REP TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 21 THAT PLANS FOR BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG, PRESUMABLY IN MAY (THOUGH FIRM DATE STILL NOT SET), ARE PROCEEDING APACE IN BONN. WHEN EMBOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE MIGHT BE SOME RESERVATIONS ON GERMAN SIDE AS TO DESIRABILITY OF VISIT AT THIS STAGE (PARA R, REFTEL), FONOFF REP SAID THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTED THE VISIT TO TAKE PLACE, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER. HE NOTED THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAD IN FACT SIGNED A LETTER TO BREZHNEV ON MARCH 21 WELCOMING THE LATTER' S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO THE FRG.

2. OUR SOURCE ADDED THAT, DESPITE SOME EFFORTS AT THE
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WORKING LEVEL IN THE CHANCELLERY TO SOFTEN THE WORDING OF BRANDT' S LETTER, THE FONOFF DRAFT HAD BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY BRANDT, WHO MADE THE POINT TO BREZHNEV THAT SEVERAL FRG- SOVIET AGREEMENTS REMAINED TO BE CONCLUDED AND THAT THEY ALL HUNG ON A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF THE BERLIN QUESTION (BONN 2764). BRANDT NOTED THAT HE HOPED THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES OVER BERLIN COULD BE CLEARED UP BEFORE BREZHNEV' S ARRIVAL, OTHERWISE THE TWO LEADERS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE PROBLEM UP THEMSELVES.

3. COMMENT: THE FONOFF OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT THE EXERTION OF THIS SORT PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS IN A LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR WILL HELP CLEAR UP THE VEXING BERLIN ISSUE IN THE VARIOUS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN AND ARE GOING ON. IF THE EFFORT IS SUCCESSFUL, THEN THE FONOFF CONSIDERS THAT THE VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE IN A VERY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE, WITH THE TWO LEADERS MEETING TO SIGN THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS. IF NOT, OUR FONOFF CONTACTS ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE ATMOSPHERE COULD BE FAIRLY SOUR SHOULD BRANDT HAVE TO PRESS HARD ON THE BERLIN QUESTION.

4. THE INFO CONTAINED IN PARA 4, REFTEL, CONCERNING BRANDT' S REPORTED REMARKS TO HEATH ON THE BREZHNEV VISIT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, GIVEN THE LATEST FONOFF COMMENTS ON PREPARATION FOR THE VISIT.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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